In the Claims:

Claims **1** to **24** (Canceled).

25. (Currently amended) A composite material comprising a plurality of discs (10) ~~made of~~ that each respectively comprise a matrix material ~~said discs (10) forming~~ and that are arranged as a stack, each said disc (10) ~~of matrix material~~ in said stack further comprising: a radially inner opening (11) surrounded by an inner disc edge and a disc ring portion surrounding said inner opening and surrounded by an outer disc edge, said disc ring portion comprising a groove (13) and at least one reinforcing fiber (14) embedded in said groove (13) thereby forming a fiber reinforced disc ring section, said reinforcing fiber (14) and said groove (13) being spaced radially outwardly from said inner disc edge thereby forming an inner first disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber, said reinforcing fiber (14) and said groove (13) being spaced radially inwardly from said outer disc edge thereby forming an outer second disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber, said fiber reinforced disc ring section being positioned between said first and second disc ring sections free of reinforcing fiber.

26. (Previously presented) The composite material of claim 25, wherein said first disc ring section free of reinforcing

fiber comprises a first radial width that is the same in each disc in said stack, and wherein said second disc ring section has a second radial width that differs in different discs in said stack.

27. (Previously presented) The composite material of claim 25, wherein said groove in each disc in said stack has a spiral shape so that said reinforcing fiber (14) or fibers extend spirally inside said fiber reinforced disc ring section.

28. (Previously presented) The composite material of claim 26, wherein said second radial width that differs in different discs is individually adapted for each disc in said stack.

29. (Currently amended) The composite material of claim 25, ~~comprising~~ wherein said matrix material [[~~as~~]] comprises titanium or a titanium alloy, and ~~comprising~~ said at least one reinforcing fiber [[~~as~~]] comprises a silicon ~~carbon~~ carbide fiber in each said disc in said stack.

30. (Previously presented) The composite material of claim 26, wherein said second disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber in one disc in said stack is overlapped by at least one fiber reinforced disc ring section of at least one neighboring disc in said stack at an interface between said fiber reinforced disc ring section and said second disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber.

31. (Previously presented) The composite material of claim 25, wherein said groove or grooves in neighboring discs of said stack are radially displaced relative to each other so that said at least one reinforcing fiber in said groove or grooves in a disc is radially staggered relative to respective reinforcing fibers in neighboring discs in said stack.

32. (Currently amended) A method [[~~for~~]] of producing [[~~a~~]] the composite material ~~in the form of a stack of discs,~~ of claim 25, said method comprising the ~~following~~ steps:

a) ~~manufacturing a~~ providing said plurality of said discs (10) of said matrix material,

b) forming at least one said groove (13) in each disc of a number of discs in said plurality of discs (10),

c) inserting said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) in each said groove (13) of a respective disc of said number of discs,

d) consolidating each said disc with [[~~a~~]] said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) in [[~~its~~]] said groove (13) thereof so that [[~~the~~]] said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) is surrounded on all sides and embedded in said matrix material,

e) stacking consolidated discs to form said stack, and

f) joining each said disc in said stack to a neighboring said disc or discs in said stack to form a solid stack.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising performing said step of ~~manufacturing~~ providing by producing said plurality of discs (10) with [[a]] said radially inner opening (11) surrounded by [[an]] said inner disc edge, forming said at least one groove in ~~a disc portion~~ said fiber reinforced disc ring section with a first spacing from said inner disc edge, and forming said at least one groove in said ~~disc portion~~ fiber reinforced disc ring section with a second spacing from ~~a radially~~ said outer disc edge of said disc (10) whereby [[a]] said first disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber is formed radially inwardly of said groove (13) and [[a]] said second disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber is formed radially outwardly of said groove, so that said ~~disc portion~~ fiber reinforced disc ring section with said at least one groove (13) therein is positioned between said first and second disc ring sections free of reinforcing fiber.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising performing said step of forming by making said groove (13) to a depth, in an axial direction, larger than a diameter of said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) so

that lands (15) project above said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) inserted in said groove.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising performing said step of consolidating each said disc (10) with said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) in [[~~its~~]] said groove (13) thereof by exposing said disc to a superplastic deformation so that said fiber is enclosed on all sides by said matrix material.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein said step of stacking is performed so that each said radially inner opening (11) of each said disc in said stack is axially aligned with all other said radially inner openings to thereby form a hollow cylinder.

37. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ composite material of claim ~~33, further comprising forming~~ 25, wherein said ~~at least one groove with at least two different radial dimensions in two~~ grooves in successive neighboring ones of said discs in said stack respectively extend radially outwardly to two different radial dimensions in alternating succession in said successive neighboring disks, so that ~~said disc portion with said at least one groove (13) therein reaches radially outwardly to different extents in said two neighboring discs in said stack whereby~~ said second disc ring ~~section~~ sections free of reinforcing fiber ~~intermeshes~~

in said successive neighboring disks intermesh with said ~~disc portion~~ fiber reinforced disc ring sections having said at least one groove therein in said successive neighboring disks for an increased strength of said stack.

38. (Previously presented)) The method of claim 32, wherein said step of joining is performed as a diffusion welding of stacked discs (10) to form said solid stack.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising inspecting each said disc, following said consolidating step and before said stacking step, for any breaks in said reinforcing fiber or fibers and for any cracks in said matrix material, and discarding any said disc in which a break or a crack is discovered.

40. (New) A composite material article comprising a plurality of annular ring-shaped composite discs arranged axially aligned with one another and stacked successively to form a stack of said discs, wherein:

each respective disc of said plurality of composite discs respectively comprises an annular ring of a matrix material including an inner ring portion bounding a central axial hole of said disc, an outer ring portion bounded by an outer periphery of said disc, and an intermediate ring portion between said inner and outer ring portions;

each said respective disc respectively further comprises at least one reinforcing fiber that extends in a direction around said central hole in said intermediate ring portion, and said outer ring portion of said matrix material does not include said at least one reinforcing fiber therein; and

each said respective disc is respectively bounded by first and second annular surfaces, and said at least one reinforcing fiber is embedded in said matrix material between and axially displaced away from said first and second annular surfaces, in that a groove deeper than a diameter of said at least one reinforcing fiber was provided in said matrix material of said intermediate ring portion, said at least one reinforcing fiber was disposed in said groove, and said matrix material was consolidated and deformed to close said groove around said at least one reinforcing fiber.

41. (New) The composite material article according to claim 40, wherein said discs are loosely stacked on one another in said stack and are not yet joined to one another.

42. (New) The composite material article according to claim 40, wherein said discs are joined to one another in said stack by diffusion welding.

43. (New) The composite material article according to claim 40, wherein said intermediate ring portions containing said reinforcing fibers of successive neighboring ones of said discs in said stack have successive alternating larger and smaller outer diameters relative to one another so as to form a crenelated intermeshing between said outer ring portions and said intermediate ring portions of said successive neighboring discs.

44. (New) The composite material article according to claim 40, wherein said groove and said at least one reinforcing fiber extend along a spiral path around said central hole.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]